

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/700,768

Examiner

Susan S. Lee

Applicant(s)

ISHIZUKA ET AL.

Art Unit

2852

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☐ This communication is responsive to ____.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-24.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 05 November 2003 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: ____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date ____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date ____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 11/5/03 & 5/27/04
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date ____.
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other ____.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The primary reason for allowance of claims 1-18 is the inclusion of a step of forming a toner image on an electrophotographic image receiving sheet and fixing and smoothing step having a fixing belt to press and heat the toner image on the electrophotographic image-receiving sheet, then cooling and releasing the sheet from the fixing belt or a toner image-fixing and smoothing unit having a heating and pressing member; a fixing belt; a cooling device; and a cooling-releasing section. The electrophotographic sheet has a support and at least one toner image-receiving layer on the support. The black print image on the surface of the electrophotographic print satisfy conditions such as $[\text{GsP}(45^\circ) / \text{GsP}(*45\pm 3^\circ)] \geq 6$, where $\text{GsP}(45^\circ)$ is a specular glossiness at an incident angle of 45° and an acceptance angle of 45° ; and $\text{GsP}(*45\pm 3^\circ)$ is the average of $\text{GsP}(*42^\circ)$ and $\text{GsP}(*48^\circ)$. This is found in all of claims 1-18, but not disclosed nor suggested by the prior art of record.

The primary reason for allowance of claims 23 and 24 is the inclusion an electrophotographic sheet having a toner image-bearing surface wherein a black print image on that surface of the electrophotographic print satisfy conditions such as $30 \leq \text{GsP}(45^\circ)$; $0 \leq \text{GsP}(*45\pm 3^\circ) \leq 15$; and further satisfying $[\text{GsP}(45^\circ) / \text{GsP}(*45\pm 3^\circ)] \geq 6$, where $\text{GsP}(45^\circ)$ is a specular glossiness at an incident angle of 45° and an acceptance angle of 45° ; and $\text{GsP}(*45\pm 3^\circ)$ is the average of $\text{GsP}(*42^\circ)$ and $\text{GsP}(*48^\circ)$. This is found in all of claims 23 and 24, but not disclosed nor suggested by the prior art of record.

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The primary reason for allowance of claims 19-22 is the inclusion of an electrophotographic image-receiving sheet having a support and at least one toner image-receiving layer on the support. The toner image-forming surface of the electrophotographic print before printing satisfy conditions such as $GsP(45^\circ) < 30$; $GsP(*45 \pm 3^\circ) > 15$; and $1 \leq [GsP(45^\circ) / GsP(*45 \pm 3^\circ)] < 6$, where $GsP(45^\circ)$ is a specular glossiness at an incident angle of 45° and an acceptance angle of 45° ; and $GsP(*45 \pm 3^\circ)$ is the average of $GsP(*42^\circ)$ and $GsP(*48^\circ)$. This is found in all of claims 19-22, but not disclosed nor suggested by the prior art of record.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Ishikawa et al. (2003/0035666), Chen et al., Ishikawa et al. (6,567,640), Tomita, Britto et al., and Ishikawa et al. (6,618,573) disclose art in fixing devices.


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Susan S. Lee whose telephone number is 571-272-2137. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon. - Fri., 10:30-8:00, Second Monday Off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Art Grimley can be reached on 571-272-2136 or 571-272-2800 (Ext. 52).

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The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Susan S. Lee
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2852

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